GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6112
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2002
PROMOTION OF URDU LANGUAGE
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Urdu books/writers/publishers awarded by the Union Government during the last three years;

(b) the criteria adopted by the Government for selection of such books/writers/publishers; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to promote Urdu?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. RITA VERMA)

(a) to (c): The Sahitya Akademi, the National Academy of Letters, set up by the Government, has presented the following awards in the field of Urdu language during the last three years:

Year	Name of the Awardee	Title of the Book
1999	Bashir Badr	Aas (Poetry)
2000	Ambar Bahraichi	Sookhi Tahni Par Hariyal (Poetry)
2001	Nayyar Masood	Taoos Chaman Ki Maina (Short Stories)

In order to be eligible for the Award, the book must be an outstanding contribution to the language and literature to which it belongs. It may be a creative or a critical work other than a work of translation, an anthology, a fresh collection of writing published earlier in book form, research work prepared for a university degree, the work of an author who has earlier won an award or the work of an author who is a member of the Executive Board of the Akademi. Lists are prepared of eligible books and the selection process involves the judgment of the works by experts, members of the language Advisory Board of the Akademi, referees and finally a three-member jury constituted for the purpose.

The Central Government has established the National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL) as an autonomous body exclusively for the development of Urdu language. The Council, among others, provides financial assistance to voluntary organisations and individuals working in the field of Urdu language and literature. The Council has brought out an Urdu Encyclopaedia in 5 volumes and an English-Urdu Dictionary in VI volumes. Besides, it publishes periodical journals. The Council implements a computer application course in Urdu with a view to linking Urdu with information technology. The current year's budget of the NCPUL is Rs.8.77 crore.

The Central Government has also established the Maulana Azad National Urdu University,(MANUU) Hyderabad for imparting higher education through the medium of Urdu. MANUU's budget in 2001-02 was Rs.20.52 crore.

The Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore has two exclusive centres, namely, Urdu Training and Research Centres at Lucknow and Solan for teacher-training and research in Urdu.